

MEETING MEMO

PROJECT: Iowa State Capitol Master Plan Update

PROJECT #: 08042

DATE/TIME: 4:00 – 6:00

LOCATION: Public Safety Building

RE:

ATTENDEES: See Attached

Comments, additions, or corrections to this memo should be communicated in writing to Confluence within seven (7) days of issuance. If no comments are received within that period, this memo will be assumed accurate and filed as part of the permanent record for this project.

ITEMS:

1. All future changes to the Capitol buildings and lands will be influenced by the recommendations of the Master Plan. Other than protecting the historic buildings, what are the most important things that the planners and architects on the team should focus their attention on?
 - a. Agencies coming to the Capitol Complex. (Planning ahead)
 - b. Should be multi-functional.
 - i. Aesthetics
 - ii. Program vs. Function
 - iii. The Vision
 - iv. City / State / Neighbors
 - v. Visitors at all levels
 - c. Create a place the people want to come to.
 - d. Destination location (place to bring your family)
 - e. It's an investment (Don't do it on the cheap.)
 - f. World Class – Quality and Value
 - g. Long term investment (National Mall type place)
 - h. Fleet building is an eye sore

MEETING MEMO - Continued

- i. Connections to the neighbors should be a priority*
 - j. Anticipate the future*
 - i. Reasoning behind why things should be where*
 - ii. Consider long term perspectives not just what works now or the "in" thing.*
 - k. Capitol building is the focus*
 - l. More than protecting buildings and history – address modern day issues*
- 2. Redevelopment of the West Capitol Terrace has created a place for Iowans to celebrate State and local events. Are there other opportunities for public use of the Capitol grounds that have yet to be fully realized?**
 - a. Use technology for interpretive experiences*
 - b. The Bridge – Bring it back (Court Avenue Bridge)*
 - c. Site Features*
 - i. Visitors and Workers alike to enjoy*
 - ii. Ease of understanding*
 - iii. Appropriateness*
 - iv. Balance museum feel with nature*
 - d. Tunnels – Public or Private*
 - e. Large Open Spaces*
 - i. Consider additional uses for events*
 - ii. Reclaim areas that should be open that are not.*
 - f. Be Bold – Honesty and Bold thinking to the approach*
 - g. Lucas Building is representative of it's era. National Register eligible?*
 - h. Example of Re-use success is Public Safety (Employee feedback is great)*
- 3. Are there important accomplishments within the Capitol Facilities planning over the past eight years, which are important to share with the planning team.**
 - a. West Capitol Terrace*
 - b. Judicial Building*
 - c. Workers Monument*
 - d. Site Features Policy*
 - e. Pervious Pavement*
 - f. Conservation of existing monuments*
 - g. Restoration of the Capitol Building*
 - h. Reclaiming of old Office building (Records and Property)*
 - i. Power upgrades*
 - j. Bus Passes*
 - k. Interiors use – In relation to the Master Plan process*
 - i. Programming guidelines – Area standards*
 - ii. Lease vs. Own (Storage Issues – Flood Plain)*
 - l. Proposed North Office Building*
 - i. Excellent pre-planning and site evaluation*
 - ii. Standards sf/person, etc.*
 - m. Universal Needs*
 - n. Records Management – forecast the future of storage – electronic vs. hard copy*
 - o. Document the Master Planning process*
 - i. Preserve institutional memory*
 - ii. DAS Archives*
 - p. Association Fee Structure – DAS fees to other agencies*
- 4. Most buildings in the Capitol complex have been brought into compliance with ADA access requirements, but what about other access issues? Are means of access for those on foot or bicycle adequate?**
 - a. Bikes – Safety Issues (Shower facilities)*
 - b. Wallace Building – security issues (too many access points)*

MEETING MEMO - Continued

- c. Physical ADA needs are okay – ADA informational access needs help*
 - d. Signage – Look, Standards, Directories all need to be more user friendly*
 - e. Wallace needs ADA accessible parking*
 - f. Access for blind people needs more thought.*
 - g. Location of Agencies needs to be clearer*
- 5. Are there important deficiencies in the facilities that you as visitors or state employees need to find in the Capitol complex? To what extent could East Village meet these needs if access to them was quicker and easier than it is today? What additional facilities 'belong' on the Capitol grounds as part of the complex?**
 - a. Signage*
 - b. Fitness / Gym accessibility and availability*
 - c. Day Care (Wellmark, Aviva models)*
 - d. Information / Visitor Center*
 - e. Recruiting new younger employees – what do they want*
 - f. Access to facilities in the neighborhood*
 - g. "Good" place to eat – Destination restaurants in the area*
 - h. Gift Shop*
 - i. Informational Kiosks*
 - j. Shuttle to East Village and Garage*
 - k. Tunnel improvements for movement – under utilized?*
 - l. Security = Badge reader systems vary*
 - i. Add cameras at entries*
 - ii. Too many entry points*
 - m. Wifi – Provide Internet access (Hot Zones)*
 - n. West Terrace Web Cams*
 - o. Electric Cars – plug in at every other light pole*
 - p. North Building – Multi-functional conferencing center*
 - q. Big Events – Need public restrooms*
 - r. C.D. with interactive visitor information – maybe radio?*
 - s. Security vs. Openness and accessibility (Balance)*
 - i. Iowan's expect an open government*
 - ii. Careful about how many screens and cards needed to enter*
- 6. The 2000 Capitol Master Plan introduced sustainability principles and guidelines which have since become widely accepted in public and private development projects. Should the new master plan for the campus again raise the bar by reaching beyond currently used LEED standards towards achievement of carbon neutrality in all future development? *[This would probably imply greater initial construction costs in order to achieve lower energy, maintenance and other operating costs for the life of each new building]*. What campus-wide sustainable practices should be developed and documented?**
 - a. Governor's executive order – need to raise the bar (Be a leader for Iowa)*
 - b. Look beyond the Capitol Complex*
 - c. Carbon Neutrality / Solar / Wind – Be realistic about space needs and fit*
 - d. Campus Wide implementation needs*
 - i. Landscape – Prairie Grasses*
 - ii. Lighting Standards – consistency of the look*
 - iii. Recycling*
 - iv. Green Government Initiative*
 - v. Storm Water Planning*
- 7. Are there ways in which the relationship of the Capitol, its staff and visitors to the adjacent neighborhoods could be improved? What should the objectives of such improvements be?**
 - a. Issues with increased gang activity – graffiti*
 - b. Complex exists as a barrier between East Village and Capitol View neighborhoods*

MEETING MEMO - Continued

- c. *Contact representatives form Neighborhood Associations*
 - i. *Capitol View*
 - ii. *Capitol East*
 - iii. *East Village*
 - iv. *Cultural Connections*
 - d. *East Village connection – made stronger*
 - i. *Remove the Fleet Building*
 - ii. *Serves as a linkage connection and a destination*
 - iii. *Rotating sculpture park / exhibition space*
 - e. *Stronger Connection to the East*
 - i. *Extend trolley East of the complex*
 - ii. *Perception and Physical needs should be addressed*
 - f. *Where do smokers go now? Adjacent neighbors unwanted guests*
- 8. **Both public and privately funded improvements along Locust have strengthened the links between the Capitol and Downtown Des Moines. What are the most important opportunities for further strengthening of this link? What other opportunities are there for linking the Capitol physically and symbolically with the surrounding city?**
 - a. *New MLK extension and Lower East Side*
 - b. *Tram / Shuttle discussions are all positive*
 - c. *Bike path connections*
 - d. *Protect view corridors – No skywalks near the complex!*
- 9. **Do employees and visitors think they have sufficient transportation choices for getting to the Capitol Complex?**
 - a. *Dart stops on every block*
 - b. *Commute from Ankeny on DART bus is great until you arrive in Des Moines – stops in bad locations for Capitol workers to use. Long ride times and you go by where you want to stop.*
 - c. *More bus shelters – minimum one for each route*
 - d. *DART needs a few express routes to the complex. (Merle Hay Mall, Valley West Mall, etc.)*
 - e. *Some riders will now park in the state garage and ride the bus to work downtown.*
 - f. *More people are now walking – give them credit for adapting*
 - g. *Trolley was a 5 last year but there are many complaints that the short ‘Capitol Loop’ has been removed and they must ride the length of the route to get to the complex.*
 - h. *Most would pay some money (\$1) to have the loop back.*
 - i. *Snow removal policy is a barrier – update possible?*
 - j. *Walking in the winter – tough to get to East Village without shuttle due to ice and snow*
 - k. *Combination of Bus / Trolley / Rail would work*
- 10. **How would you rate commuter transit service to the Capitol and the service provided by the circulator trolley? Are there other access improvements to the Capitol that merit investigation?**
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- 11. **Part of the responsibility of the master plan is to direct limited funds towards the most important issues. How do you think the master planning team should deal with the competing needs of more parking versus restoring the Capitol grounds to a quality landscape worthy of its role as the symbolic heart of the State? *[Note that parking ramps on the campus perimeter would oblige legislators and others to walk further, and that underground parking close to the Capitol would be twice as costly to construct as above-grade parking ramps].***
 - a. *Workplace vs. Symbolic State Facility – must balance*
 - i. *Government facility to what extent*

MEETING MEMO - Continued

- ii. *Limited Funds*
 - iii. *Parking is a by-product*
 - b. *Telecommuting? Future policy? How will this impact traffic and space needs?*
 - c. *Dedicated capitol shuttle would support less parking*
 - d. *Rental Car companies from Airports as a model*
 - e. *Safety issues at crossings (Building drop offs would help!)*
 - f. *East side parking for Legislature is for 100 – 120 days*
 - i. *Realistically never going away*
 - ii. *Compromise – what can be done?*
 - iii. *Austin, TX established underground (remember world class?)*
 - g. *Good shuttle service could solve Legislative Issues*
 - h. *East Parking looks like the 'back door'*
 - i. *Balance access needs both during session and off session.*
- 12. **Are there other issues that the master plan team should address? If so, what are they, and what would be the best outcome in your view?**
 - a. *Judicial and Legislative input is necessary*
 - b. *Crosswalks – Traffic/Public education program to "Stop – when flashing"*
- 13. **Is there anything else that you would like us to know?**
 - a. *Bring majority of complex back to the complex*
 - b. *Agencies – work together (not individual silos)*
 - c. *Adjacent schools use the complex as a living civics lesson.*
 - d. *Historical Building / Visitor Center Idea mentioned*

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

PROJECT: Iowa State Capitol Master Plan Update - 2009 DATE: 1.13.09
PROJECT #: 08042 TIME: 4:00 - 6:00
RE: Public Meeting

ATTENDEES:

NAME	ORGANIZATION	MAILING ADDRESS	EMAIL ADDRESS
Jonim Clark	Confluence	bclark@thinkconfluence.com	
Kent Freise	ICN		kent.freise@iowa.gov
Dean Ibsen	DAS	109 SE 13th 50317	dean.ibsen@iowa.gov
Dave Marley	ICN	Grimes Bld	david.marley@iowa.gov
Chris Van Gorp	DNR	Wallace St. Office Bldg	chris.vangorp@dnr.iowa.gov
Steve Larson	St. Treas. off	St. Cap. Bldg	steve.larson@iowa.gov
Robert Grayson	OEI	Lucas Bldg	robert.grayson@iowa.gov
Nick Smith	DAS	Facilities Mgmt Center	Nick.Smith@iowa.gov
Bruce Williams	IAE	600 E Locust	bruce.williams@iowa.gov
Barbara Bendon	DAS	Barbara Bendon	@Iowa.Gov
Brice Oakley	CPC	brice.oakley@netins.net	
Laura Riordan	DAS	Hoover Bldg - 3rd Fl	laura.riordan@iowa.gov
Jerome Thompson	BCA	Historical Bldg	jerome.thompson@iowa.gov
Molly Clune	CPC	IGOV	molly.clune@iowa.gov
Sally Jaguhn	DNR		Sally.jaguhn@iowa.gov
Tim Ryburn	DAS	Tim.Ryburn@iowa.gov	DAS
Ray Wetten			
Paul Carlson			
Pat Lince			
Jeffrey Morgan			
Matt Cerillo			